

TALLIS 16+

THOMAS TALLIS SCHOOL POST 16 CENTRE

SUPERCURRICULAR READING LIST

SUBJECT: Spanish

Works by Spanish-speaking authors

- Rigoberta Menchú (Rigoberta Menchu). Biography of this influential indigenous woman dedicated to promoting indigenous rights in Guatemala.
- Ser mujer negra en España (Desirée Bela Lobedde) A book to understand racism in Spain and stop it happening again.
- No way home: A Cuban Dancer's story Magical memoir about Carlos Acosta's rise to stardom in the international dance community and the challenges he has faced
- Hija del camino (Lucia Mbomio Rubio). A novel that deals with identity, family ties and a fight against racism.
- Nada (Carmen Laforet). One of the most important literary works of post-Civil War Spain, the semi-autobiographical story of an orphaned young woman who leaves her small town to attend university in war-ravaged Barcelona.
- Bodas de Sangre (Federico García Lorca). Play about love, betrayal and revenge set in an Andalusian village.
- El coronel no tiene quien le escriba (Gabriel García Márquez). Story of a retired army colonel hoping to get pension earned while fighting in a 1000-day war. Set in Colombia in period known as 'La Violencia' when the government ruled using censorship and martial law.
- El tragaluz (Antonio Buero Vallejo). This play shows how the Civil War affected the life of ordinary people in the decades that followed.
- Eva Luna (Isabel Allende) Eva Luna's journey tough life so far and her ability to tell stories, interweaving her personal story with the broader geopolitical turmoil of Latin America during the 1950s - 1980s.
- La isla bajo el mar (Isabel Allende) Follows Zarité, an enslaved woman in Saint-Domingue (Haiti), as she endures immense hardships and eventually finds freedom, with her journey taking her through Cuba and ultimately to Louisiana during the Haitian Revolution. Great for learning the colonial history of the Caribbean.
- Hija de la Fortuna (Isabel Allende) Follows a young Chilean woman on her adventurous journey from Valparaíso to California during the Gold Rush in search of her lover, ultimately discovering her own independence and identity.
- Retrato en Sepia (Isabel Allende) A multi-generational saga exploring the life of a young woman in late 19th and early 20th century Chile, as she uncovers her family's secrets and her own identity through the lens of her passion for photography.
- Con el Che por Sudamérica (Alberto Granado) The Motorcycle Diaries was based on this account.

English-language novels set in Spain

- Guernica (Dave Boling). Novel set in the Basque town of Guernica before, during, and after its destruction by the German Luftwaffe during the Spanish Civil War.
- The Return (Victoria Hislop). Novel with lots of insight into Spanish civil war and post war period.
- Fire in the Blood: The New Spain (Ian Gibson). Accompanied by BBC documentary, also available on YouTube lots of information on Spain over the last century up to modern times.
- The fountains of silence (Ruta Sepetys) A portrait of love, silence, and secrets under a Spanish dictatorship.

Works on languages

- Lingo: A Language Spotter's Guide to Europe (Gaston Dorren, 2014) A very engaging whirlwind tour of sixty languages spoken in Europe.
- Babel: Around the World in Twenty Languages (Gaston Dorren, 2018) A fascinating exploration of the twenty languages with the most speakers worldwide.
- Ad Infinitum: A Biography of Latin (Nicholas Ostler, 2007) Worth reading at least the chapter on how Vulgar Latin became the Romance languages we study today!
- Latin Alive! The Survival of Latin in English and the Romance Languages (Joseph B.Solodow, 2010)

Films

- Volver (Pedro Almodóvar). Three generations of women survive fire, insanity and even death.
- El Laberinto del Fauno (Guillermo del Toro)
- Las 13 rosas (Emilio Martínez Lázaro). A true story, follows the tragic fate of thirteen young women, fighting for their ideals in the aftermath of the Spanish Civil War.
- Rosario Tijeras (Emilio Maillé) narco-soap based in Colombia
- Celda 211 (Daniel Monzón) when an inmate leads a rebellion, a young guard tries to survive by impersonating a prisoner.
- Diarios de motocicleta (Walter Sales) Biographical film based on the travels of the young Che Guevara and Alberto Granado, two medics, who discover their spiritual and political destiny as they travel across South America.
- Como Agua Para Chocolate (Alfonso Arua.) Mexican film, earthy and magical it tells the tale of turn-of-the-century family life.
- Frida (Julie Taymor) Biopic of the iconic Mexican artist Frida Kahlo. In English.
- Ocho apellidos vascos (Emilio Martínez-Lázaro) Romantic comedy.
- También la lluvia (Icía Bollaín) As a director and his crew to shoot a controversial film about Christopher Columbus in Cochabamba, Bolivia, local people rise up against plans to privatise the water supply.
- Roma (Alfonso Cuarón). A year in the life of a middle-class family's maid in Mexico City in the 1970s.

Listening material

BBC World Service - Digital Planet - any episode!

You're Dead to Me episodes [here](#)

The Aztecs

The History of Chocolate

LGBTQ History

Simón Bolívar

The Inca Empire

The History of Fandom (1700-1900)

The Harlem Renaissance

The Columbian Exchange
Notting Hill Carnival
Al Andalus

In Our Time episodes

The Arab conquests: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00c5xzc>

Muslim Spain: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00548l1>

Bolivar: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00f4prq>

The Valladolid debate: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000fgmw>

The Spanish Civil War: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00548wn>

The Incas: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0005t68>

The Aztecs: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00548v0>

Medieval Pilgrimage <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000s9qp>

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